

# An Introduction to Robot Autonomy

with  
MOOS-IvP  
and  
Aquaticus



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## Lecture 4.5: Project Aquaticus Mechanics and Integration



MOOS-IvP Supported by ONR Code 311 since 2000



Prof. Michael "Misha" Novitzky  
United States Military Academy  
michael.novitzky@westpoint.edu



Battelle



Aquaticus Supported by ONR, DARPA, Battelle and the Army Research Lab

Game  
Mechanics

Autonomy

Integration

Tools

Lab  
Overview

# MOOS-IvP and Aquaticus

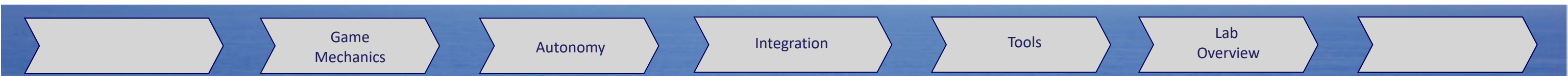
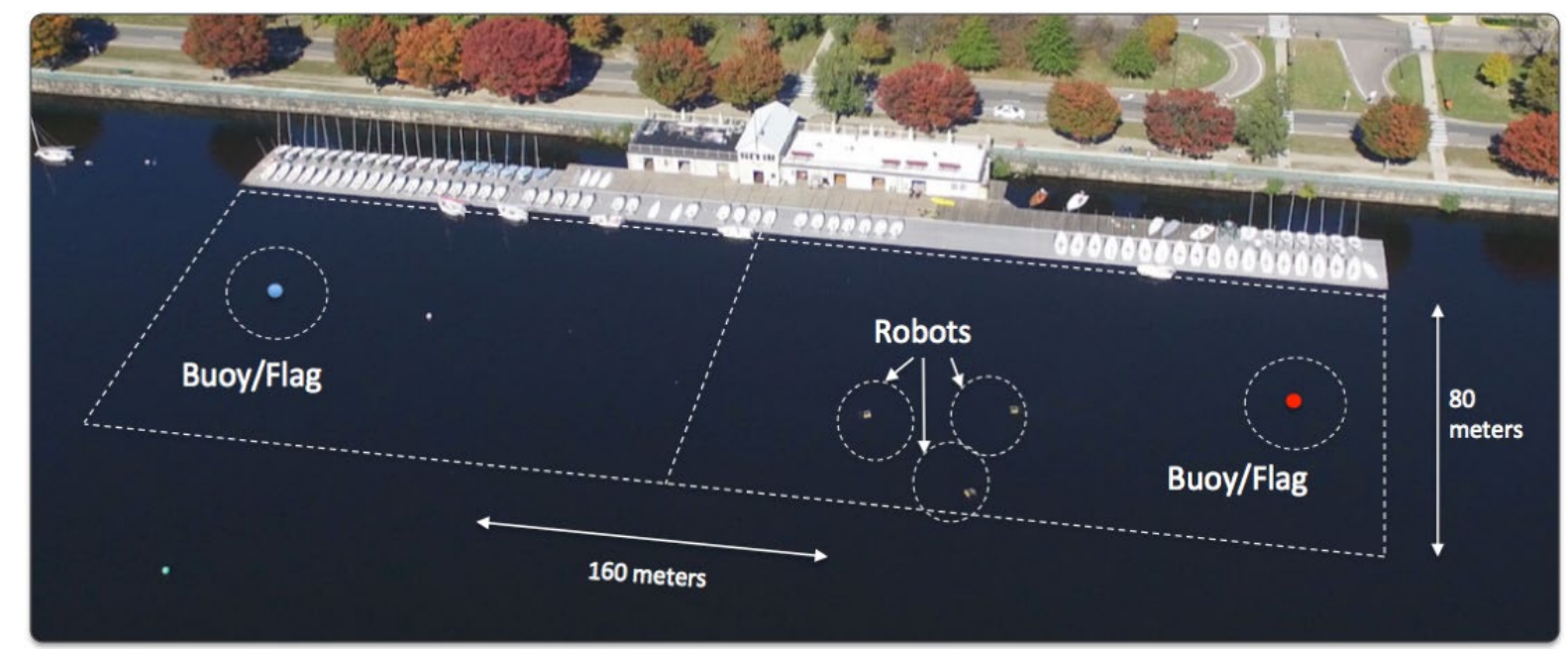
**MOOS-IvP**  
[www.moos-ivp.org](http://www.moos-ivp.org)

- MOOS robot middleware
- IvP Autonomy architecture
- Open source since 2006
- On dozens of platform types around the world



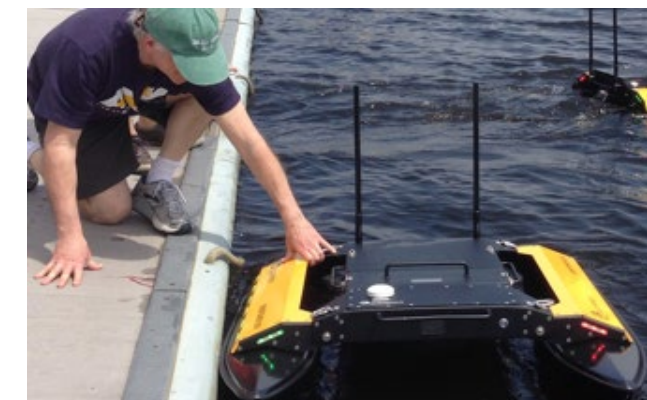
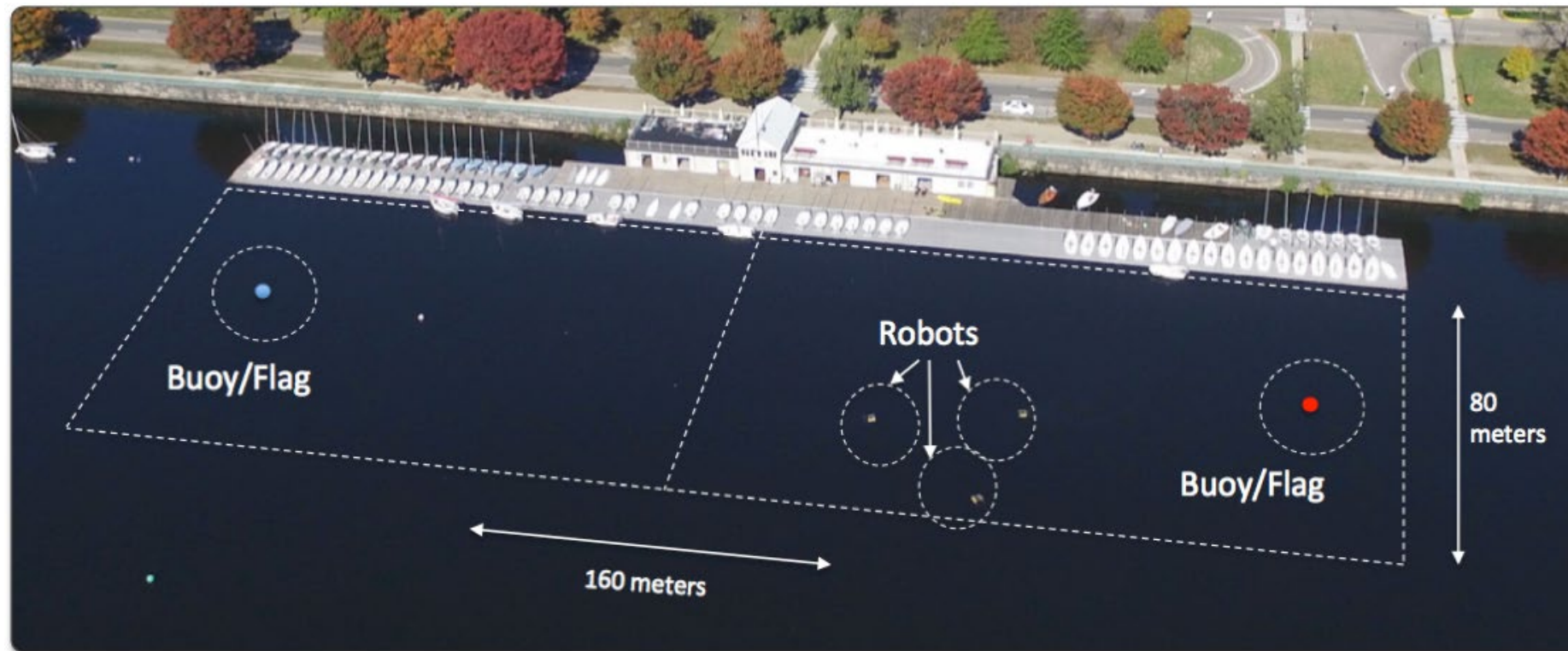
**Aquaticus**  
[www.aquaticus.org](http://www.aquaticus.org)

- An adversarial competition
- Based on capture-the-flag
- Played on the water
- Software infrastructure MOOS-IvP
- Started at MIT, now at West Point.



# Aquaticus Human-Robot Cooperative Teaming Test-bed

Dr. Michael Benjamin, Dr. Michael Novitzky, Prof. Henrik Schmidt



- Mixed Human-robot teaming with humans in field with robot teammates.
- Unique factor: full in-field integration of human teammates. Multiple communication modes.
- Field is ~160x80m on Charles River at MIT.
- Choice of robot autonomy configurations, modes, strategies, contingencies, protocols must consider what is most useful and digestible to humans
- Humans are in motorized kayaks with voice-to-text for comms to robots.

- Funded by DARPA TTO through ONR. Seedling. ARL-STRONG
- Full competitions (4 on 4) during summer 2018.
- Operated in conjunction with Marine Autonomy Summer High School Program (Year 3, 2018)
- Human-Use Approval (MIT, DoD) March 2017.
- Goals, operating environment, team structure may be changed mid-competition, per requests of model developers.

Game  
Mechanics

Autonomy

Integration

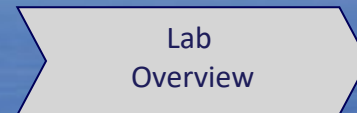
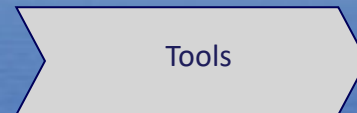
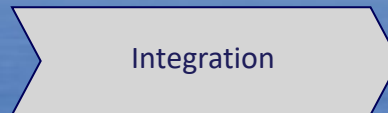
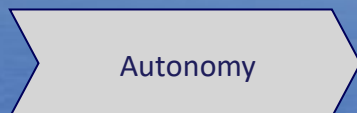
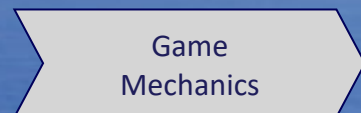
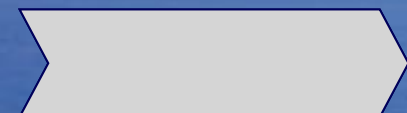
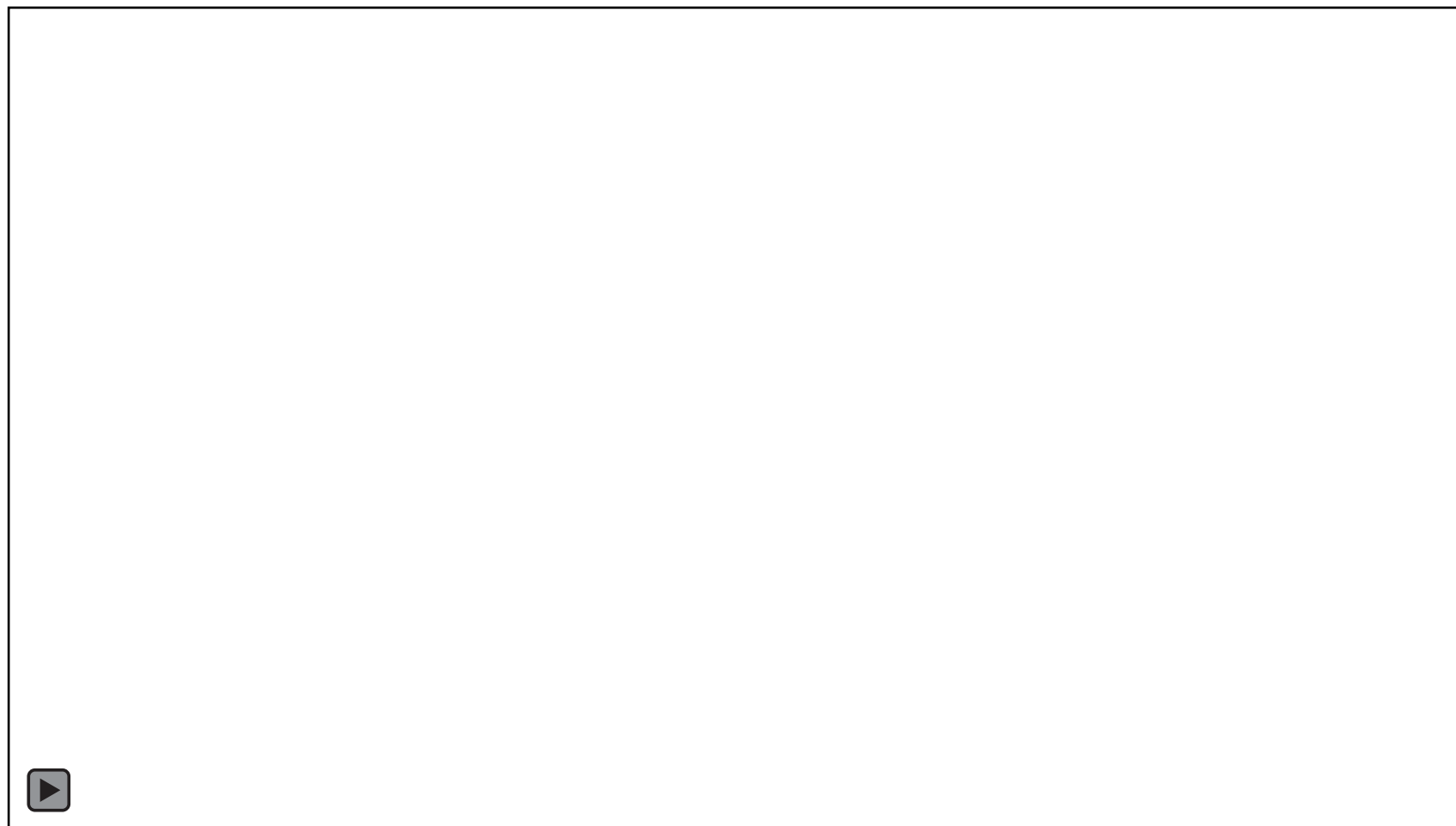
Tools

Lab  
Overview



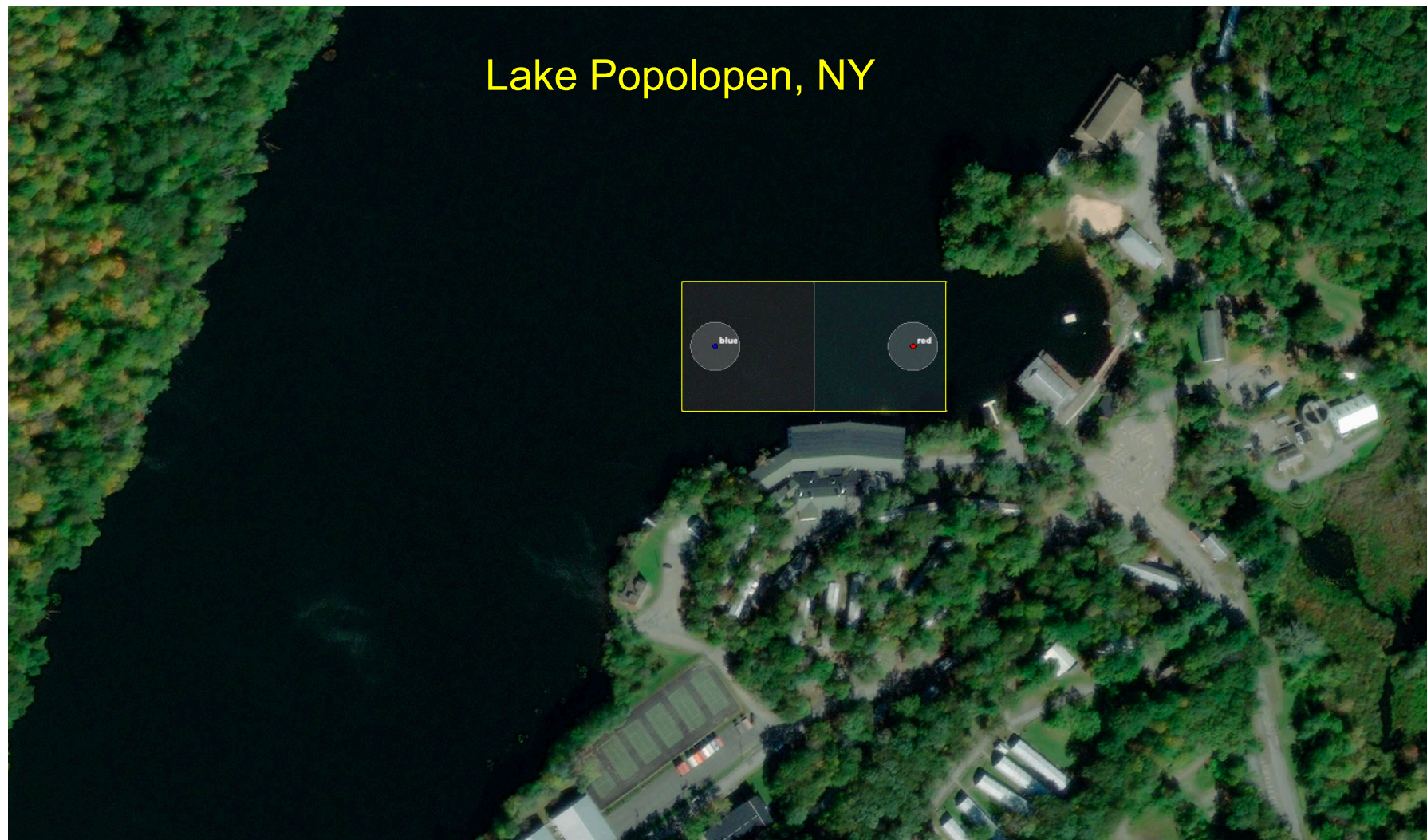
# Aquaticus Human-Robot Cooperative Teaming Test-bed

Dr. Michael Benjamin, Dr. Michael Novitzky, Prof. Henrik Schmidt



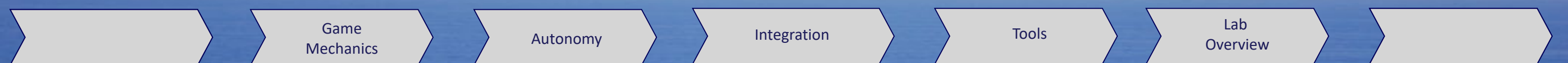
# Moved to West Point NY

- Flags are anchored buoys
- "capturing" of flags is virtual. Must be within flag zone.
- Field boundaries are virtual with penalties for going out of bounds



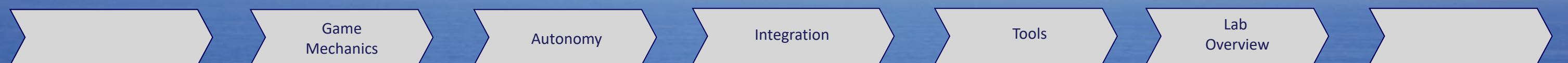
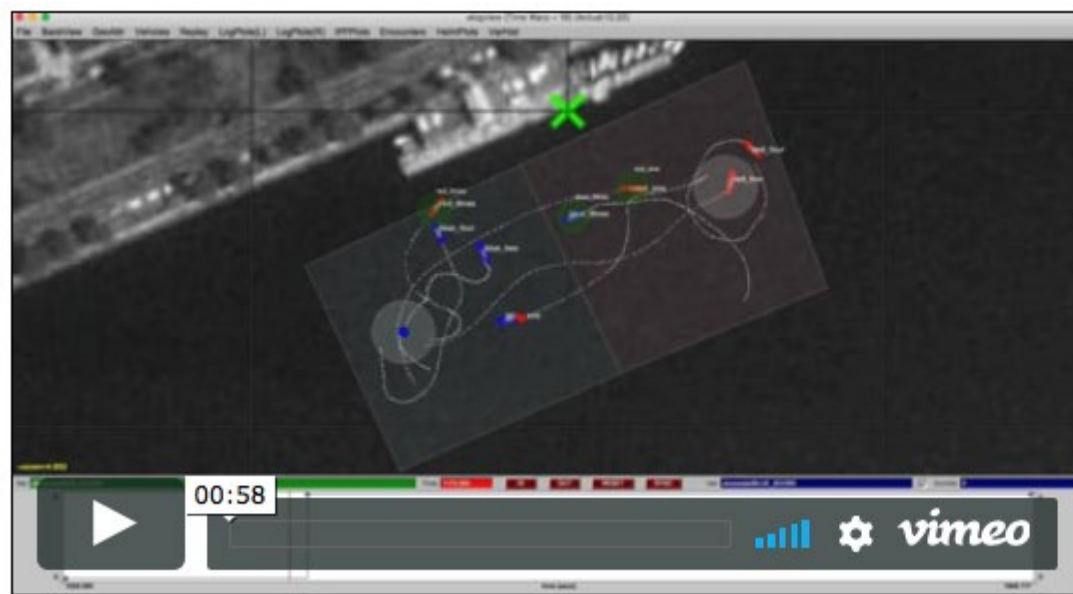
**Location:**  
Lake Popolopen, NY

**Dimensions:**  
160x80m

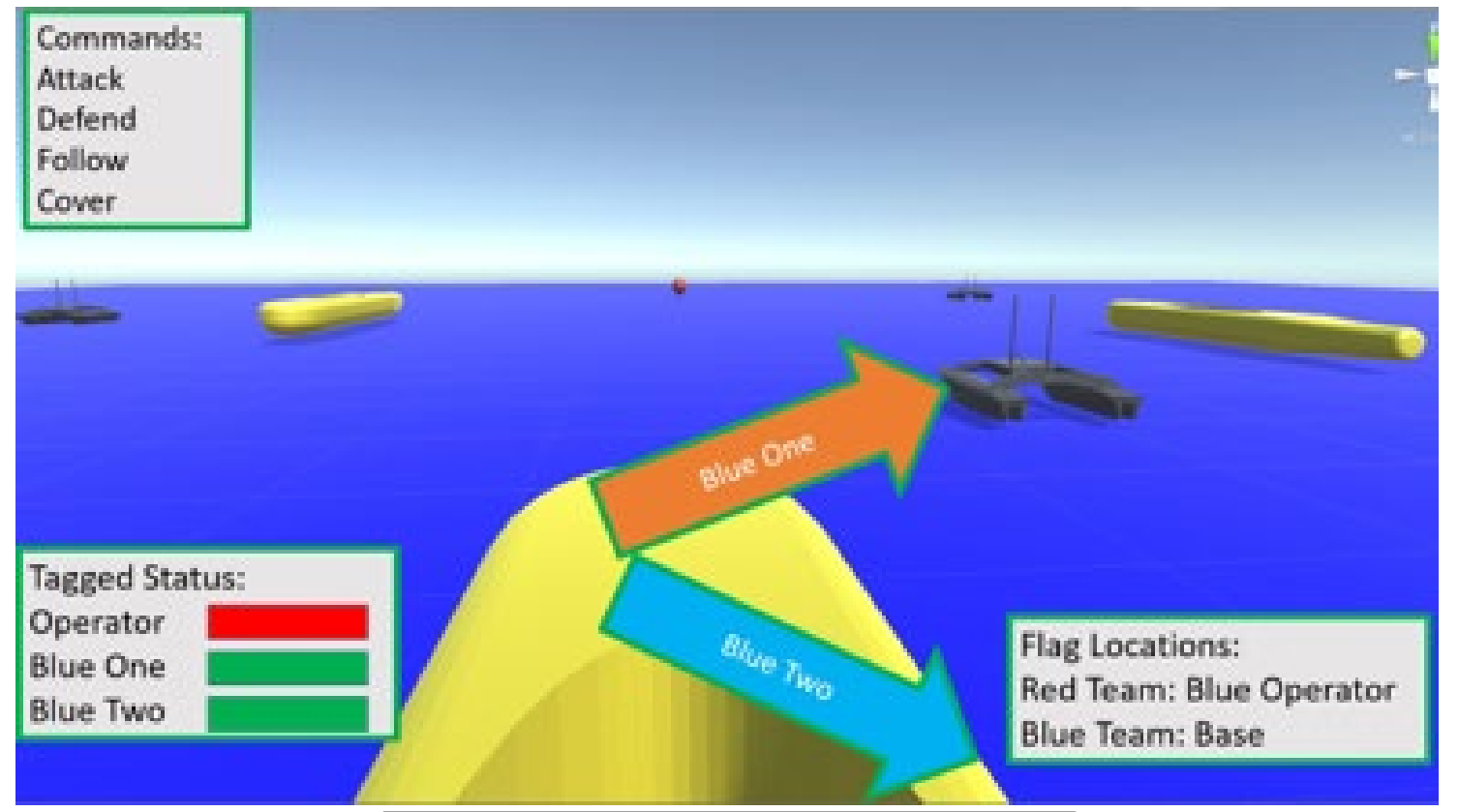
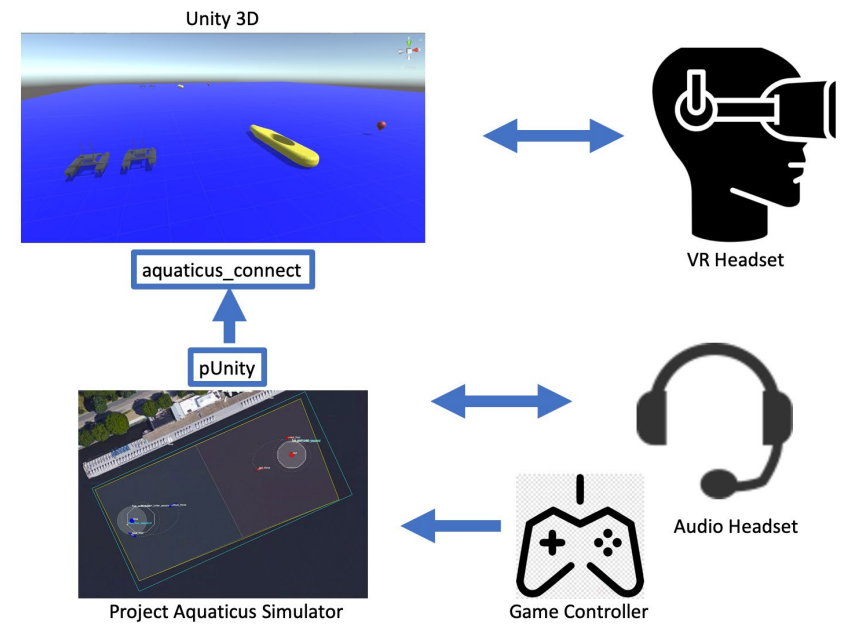


# Winning Tactics

- Naval Postgraduate School
- Roles
- Time
- Listened to comms



# Virtual/Augmented Reality

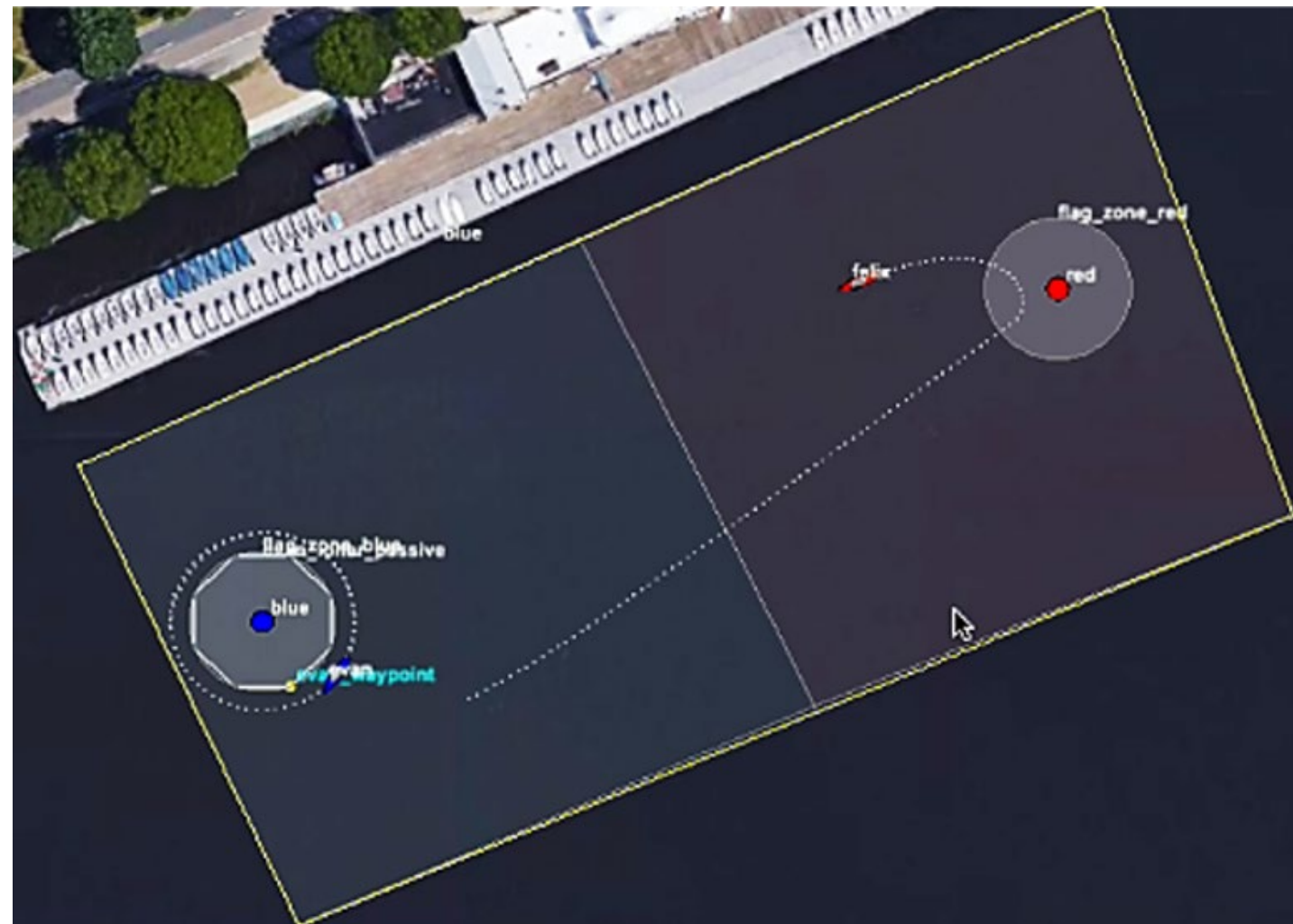


Green is Augmented Reality

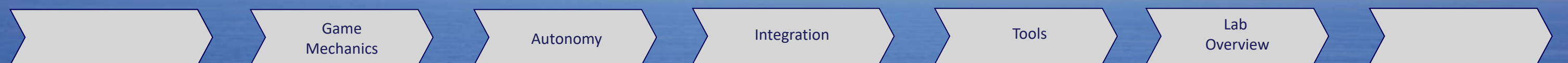
Independent Study



- Fitted Q Learning
- TensorFlow/Keras
- Scripts for learning



Independent Study and Honor Thesis





# Aquaticus Mechanics

Game  
Mechanics

Autonomy

Integration

Tools

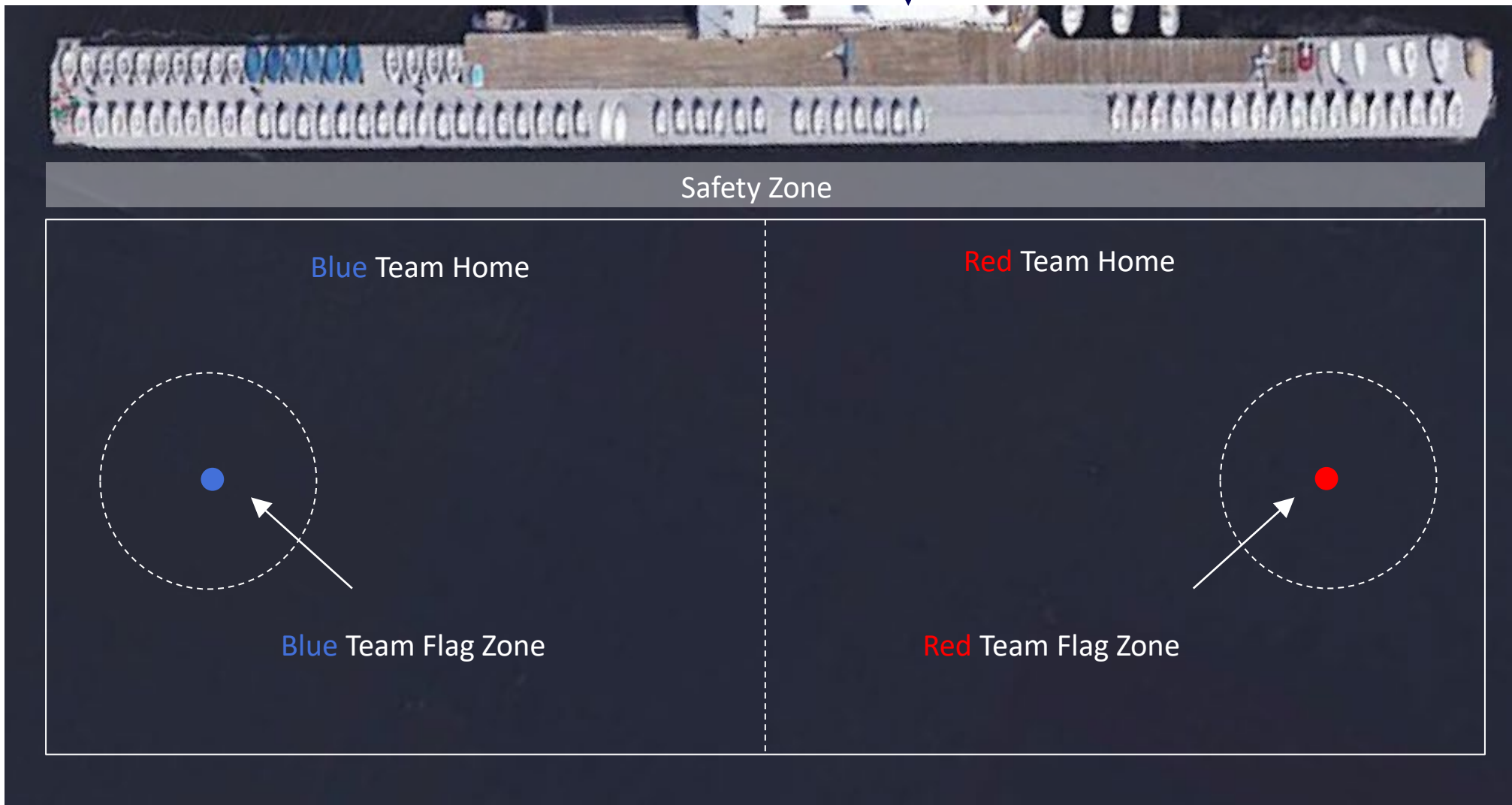
Lab  
Overview

# Aquaticus Playing Field

Competition based on Capture the Flag

Command and Control Center

- Flags are anchored buoys
- "capturing" of flags is virtual. Must be within flag zone.
- Field boundaries are virtual with penalties for going out of bounds
- Defend with "tags"



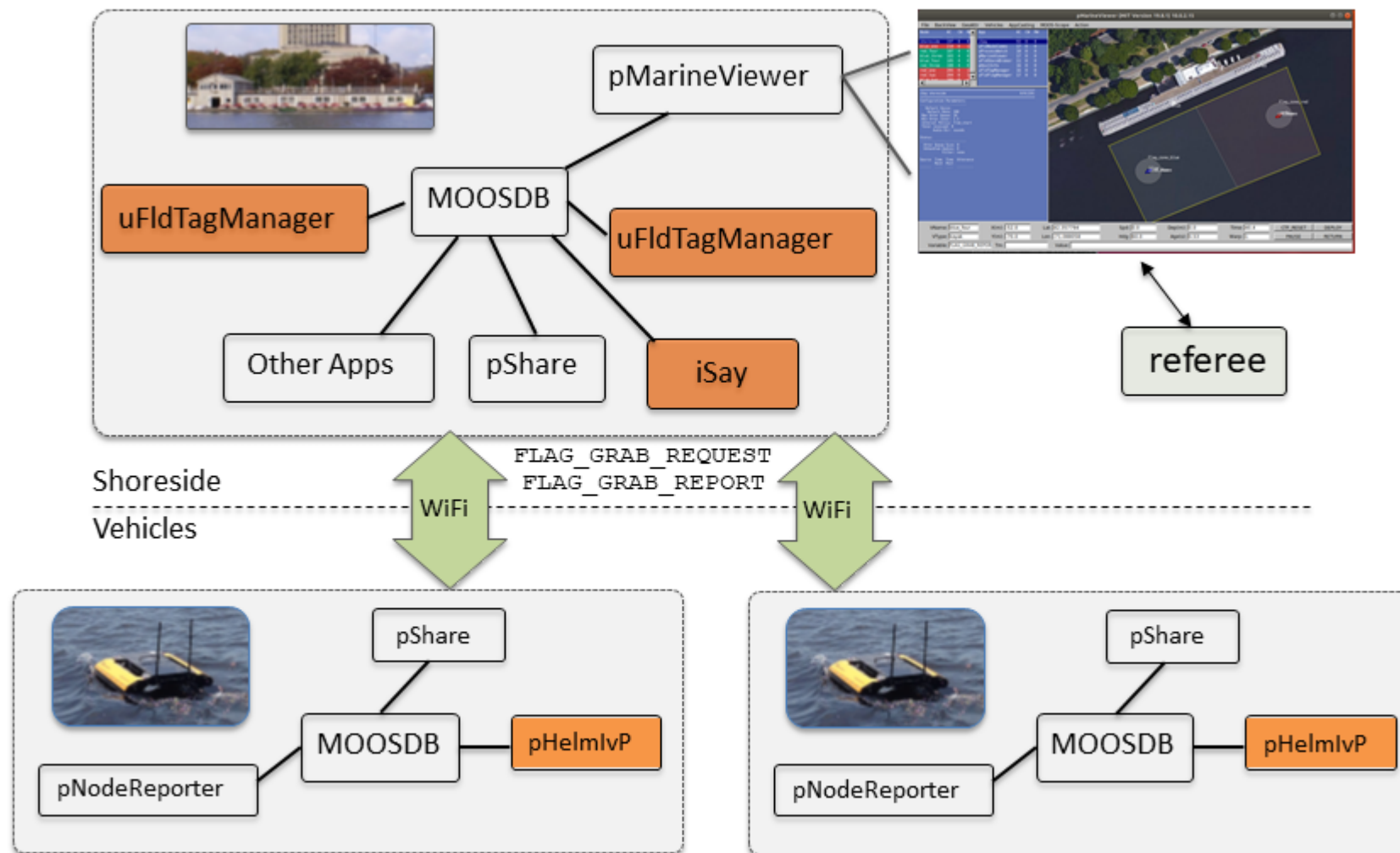
**Location:**  
Charles River  
at MIT

**Dimensions:**  
160x80m

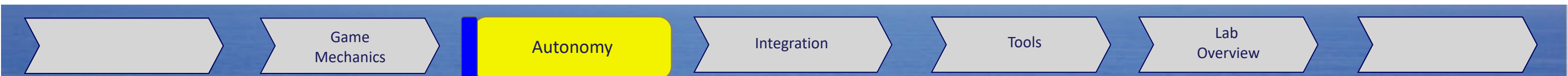
# Aquaticus Playing Field

Competition based on Capture the Flag

- Share locations
  - Collision Avoidance
  - Game mechanics
- Requests
- Announcements

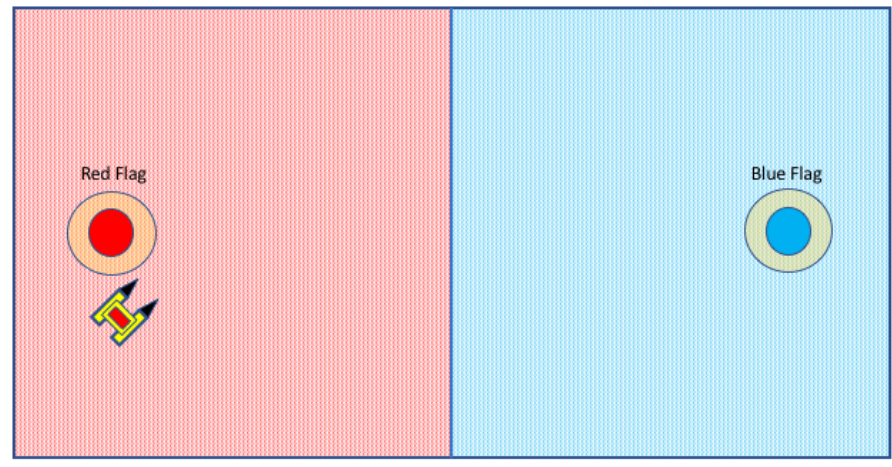


# Aquaticus Autonomy

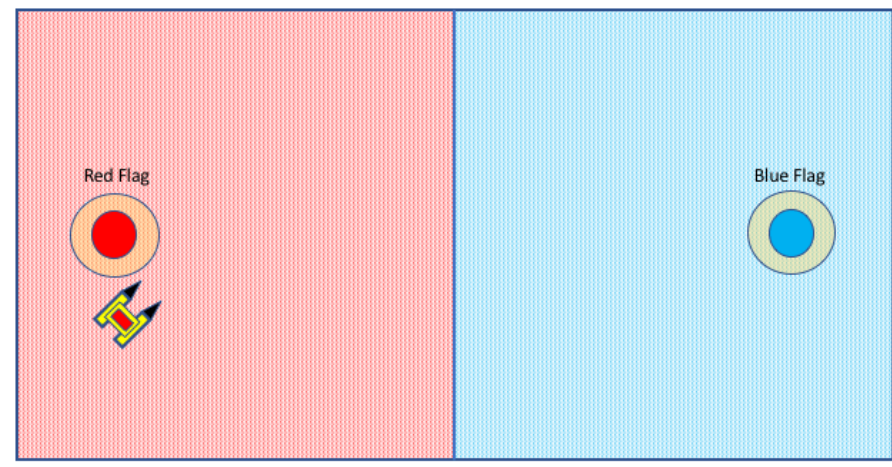


# Aquaticus Playing Field

## Individual

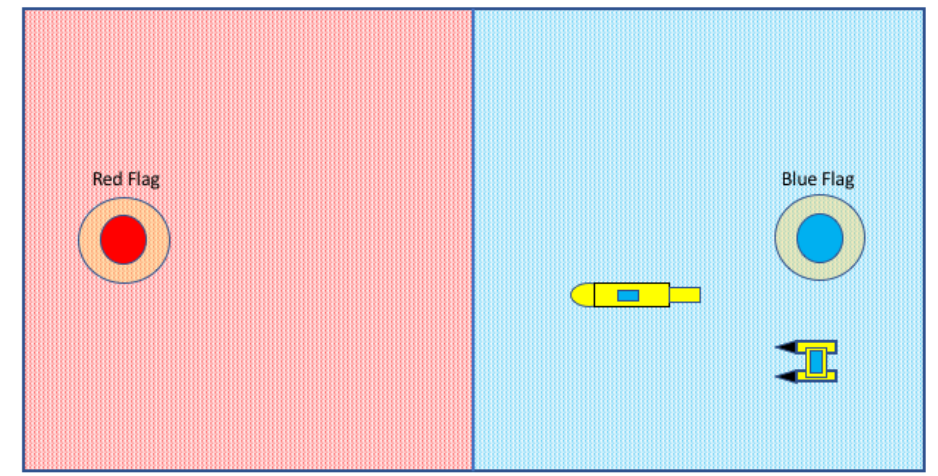


Defend

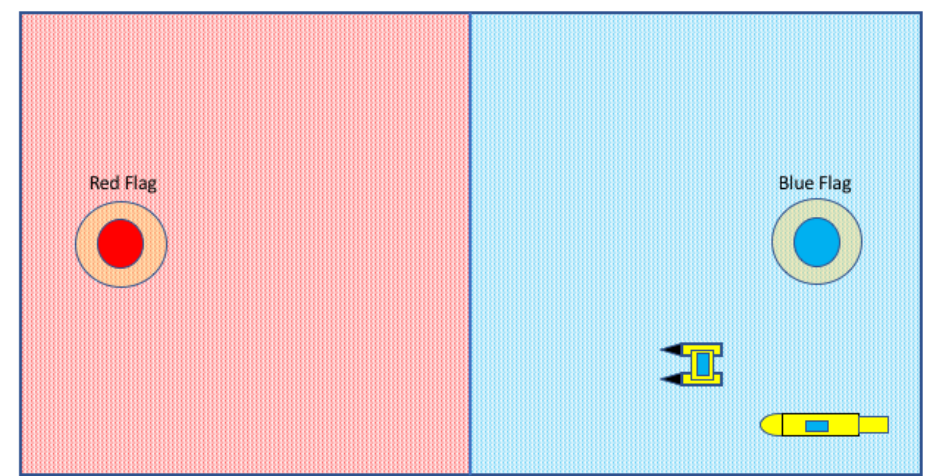


Attack

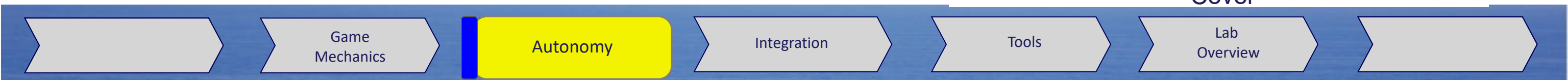
## Teamwork



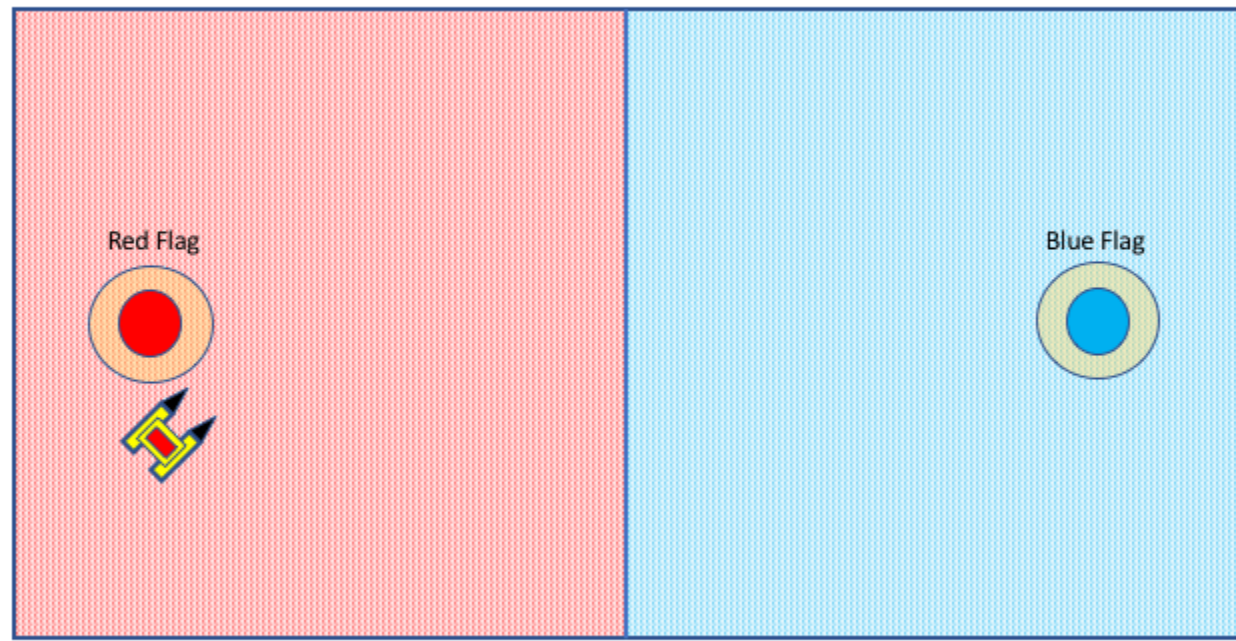
Trail



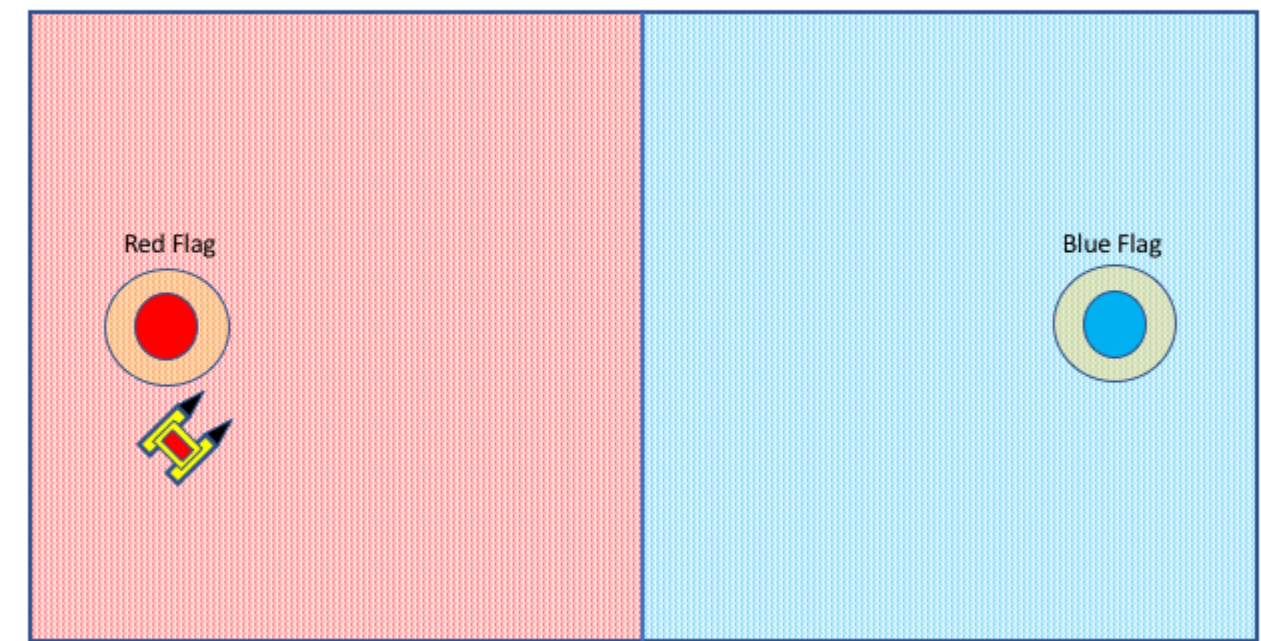
Cover



# Aquaticus Playing Field



Attack Right



Attack Left

# Aquaticus Helm Hierarchy Tree

uHelmScope

```

Mode-Variable=MODE
ACTIVE
  RECOVERING
  RETURNING
  INGAME
    SOLOPLAY
      ATTACKING
        TAGGED
        UNTAGGED
      AVOIDING
      ATTACKING_LEFT
        TAGGED
        UNTAGGED
      ATTACKING_RIGHT
        TAGGED
        UNTAGGED
    DEFENDING
    PASSIVE
    PROTECTING
  TEAMPLAY
  TRAILING
  COVERING
  SHIELDING
  STATIONING
INACTIVE
  
```

```

initialize DEPLOY = false
initialize RETURN = false
initialize ACTION = $(START_ACTION)
initialize TAGGED = false
initialize AGGRESSIVE = false
initialize RECOVER = false

set MODE = ACTIVE {
  DEPLOY = true
} INACTIVE

set MODE = RETURNING {
  MODE = ACTIVE
  RETURN = true
} INGAME

set MODE = SOLOPLAY {
  MODE = ACTIVE:INGAME
  (((ACTION = ATTACK) or ((ACTION = ATTACK_LEFT) or (ACTION = ATTACK_RIGHT))) or ((ACTION = INTERCEPT) or (ACTION = DEFEND))) or (ACTION = PROTECT)
}

set MODE = TEAMPLAY {
  MODE = ACTIVE:INGAME
  ((ACTION = COVER) or ((ACTION = STATION) or (ACTION = TRAIL))) or (ACTION = SHIELD)
}

set MODE = ATTACKING {
  MODE = ACTIVE:INGAME:SOLOPLAY
  ACTION = ATTACK
}

set MODE = DEFENDING {
  MODE = ACTIVE:INGAME:SOLOPLAY
}

set MODE = TAGGED {
  MODE = ACTIVE:INGAME:SOLOPLAY:ATTACKING
  TAGGED = true
} UNTAGGED

set MODE = TRAILING {
  MODE = ACTIVE:INGAME:TEAMPLAY
  ACTION = TRAIL
}
  
```

meta\_heron.bhv

uHelmScope

```

Mode-Variable=MODE
ACTIVE
  RECOVERING
  RETURNING
  INGAME
    SOLOPLAY
    ATTACKING
    TAGGED
    UNTAGGED
    AVOIDING
    ATTACKING_LEFT
    TAGGED
    UNTAGGED
    ATTACKING_RIGHT
    TAGGED
    UNTAGGED
  DEFENDING
  PASSIVE
  PROTECTING
  TEAMPLAY
  TRAILING
  COVERING
  SHIELDING
  STATIONING
INACTIVE
  
```

```

//Behavior = BHV_AvoidCollision
{
  // General Behavior Parameters
  // -----
  name      = avdcollision_
  pwt       = 300
  updates   = CONTACT_INFO
  endflag   = CONTACT_RESOLVED = ${CONTACT}
  templating = spawn

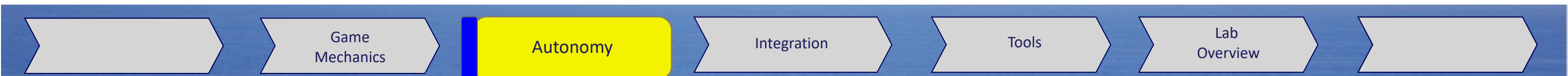
  // General Contact Behavior Parameters
  // -----
  bearing_lines = white:0, green:0.65, yellow:0.8, red:1.0 // example

  contact = optional_vehicle_name
  decay = 15,30
  extrapolate = true
  on_no_contact_ok = true

  // Parameters specific to this behavior
  // -----
  completed_dist = 15
  max_util_cpa_dist = 10
  min_util_cpa_dist = 5
  pwt_grade = linear
  pwt_inner_dist = 10
  pwt_outer_dist = 20
}

//-----
Behavior = BHV_OpRegionRecover
{
  name      = recover
  pwt       = 300
  updates   = RECOVER_UPDATES
  activeflag = RECOVER = true
  inactiveflag = RECOVER = false

  polygon = pts={-85,-48 : 59,21 : 90.9,-52.4 : -53.1, -121.4}
  trigger_entry_time = 1
  trigger_exit_time = 1
}
  
```





uHelmScope

```

Mode-Variable=MODE
ACTIVE
  RECOVERING
  RETURNING
  INGAME
    SOLOPLAY
      ATTACKING
        TAGGED
        UNTAGGED
      AVOIDING
        ATTACKING_LEFT
          TAGGED
          UNTAGGED
        ATTACKING_RIGHT
          TAGGED
          UNTAGGED
        DEFENDING
          PASSIVE
          PROTECTING
    TEAMPLAY
      TRAILING
      COVERING
      SHIELDING
      STATIONING
  INACTIVE
  
```

```

#####
Behavior = BHV_Waypoint
{
  name           = waypt_grab
  pwt            = 50
  perpetual      = true

  condition      = (MODE == UNTAGGED) and (MODE == ATTACKING)
  runflag       = BOT_DIALOG_STATUS=Attacking
  endflag       = FLAG_GRAB_REQUEST=vname=$(RNAME)
  endflag       = TAGGED=true

  speed         = 5 // meters per second
  capture_line  = false
  capture_radius = 7.0
  slip_radius   = 5.0

  points        = $(GRAB_POS)
}

#####
Behavior = BHV_Waypoint
{
  name           = left_waypt_grab
  pwt            = 50
  perpetual      = true
  updates       = UPDATE_WPT
  condition      = (MODE == UNTAGGED) and (MODE == ATTACKING_LEFT)
  runflag       = BOT_DIALOG_STATUS=Attacking
  endflag       = FLAG_GRAB_REQUEST=vname=$(RNAME)
  endflag       = TAGGED=true

  speed         = 5 // meters per second
  capture_line  = false
  capture_radius = 7.0
  slip_radius   = 5.0

  points        = $(GRABL_POS):$(GRAB_POS)
  visual_hints = vertex_size=0, edge_size=0
  visual_hints = vertex_color=invisible, edge_color=invisible
  visual_hints = nextpt_color=invisible, nextpt_lcolor=invisible
}
  
```

# Aquaticus Helm Hierarchy Tree

meta\_heron.bhv



uHelmScope

```

Mode-Variable=MODE
ACTIVE
  RECOVERING
  RETURNING
  INGAME
    SOLOPLAY
    ATTACKING
    TAGGED
    UNTAGGED
    AVOIDING
  ATTACKING_LEFT
    TAGGED
    UNTAGGED
  ATTACKING_RIGHT
    TAGGED
    UNTAGGED
  DEFENDING
  PASSIVE
  PROTECTING
  TEAMPLAY
  TRAILING
  COVERING
  SHIELDING
  STATIONING
INACTIVE
  
```

```

#####
Behavior = BHV_Trail
{
  name          = trail_mokai
  pwt           = 100
  condition     = MODE == TRAILING
  runflag      = BOT_DIALOG_STATUS=Trailing
  contact       = $(VTEAM)_one
  decay         = 15,30
  extrapolate   = false
  on_no_contact_ok = true
  time_on_leg   = 60

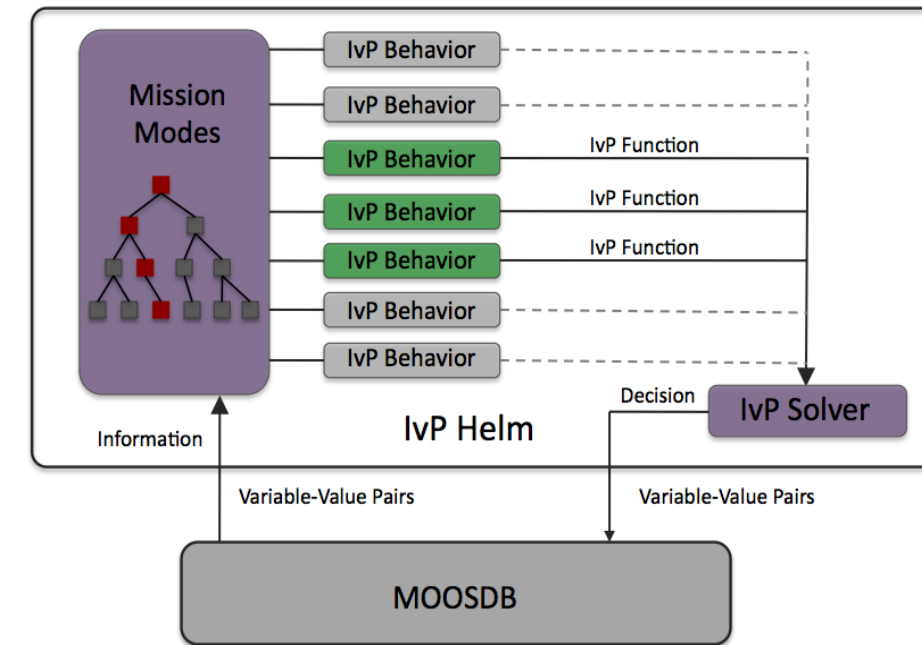
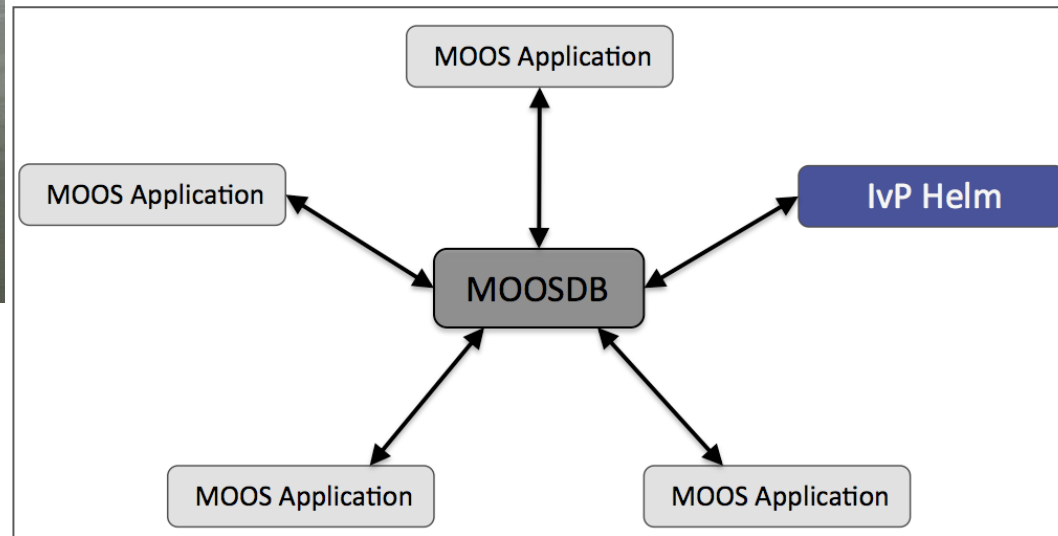
  nm_radius     = 1
  no_alert_request = false
  post_trail_dist_on_idle = true
  pwt_outer_dist = 1000
  radius        = 2
  trail_angle   = 180
  trail_angle_type = relative
  trail_range   = 15

  updates      = TRAIL_UPDATES
}
  
```

# MOOS-IvP & Aquaticus Integration

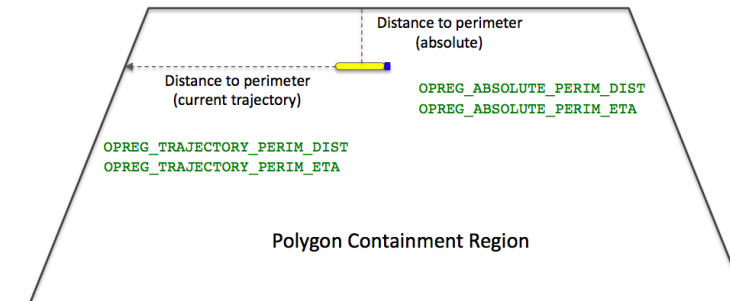


## On-water Safety/Interventions

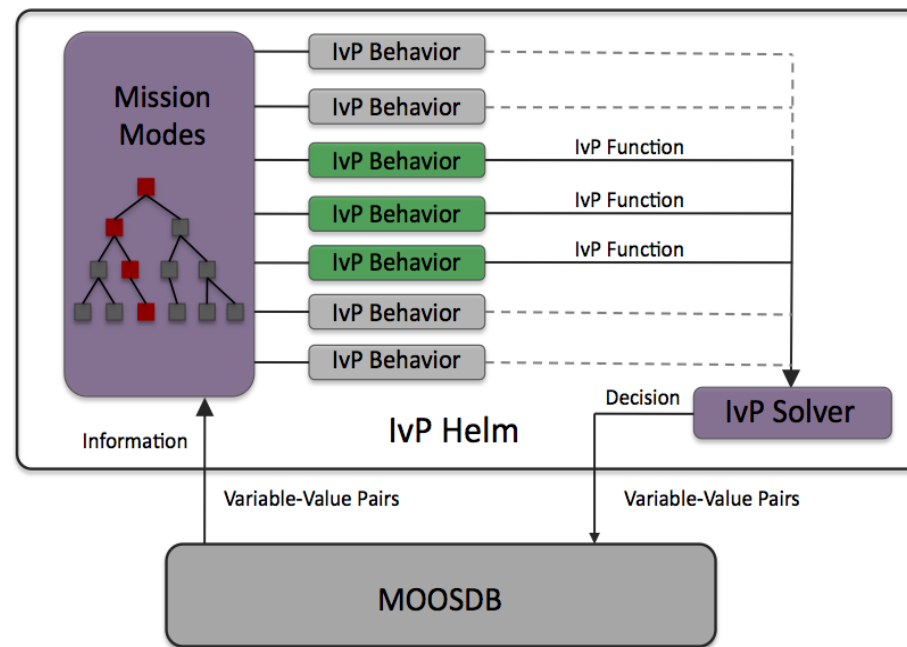
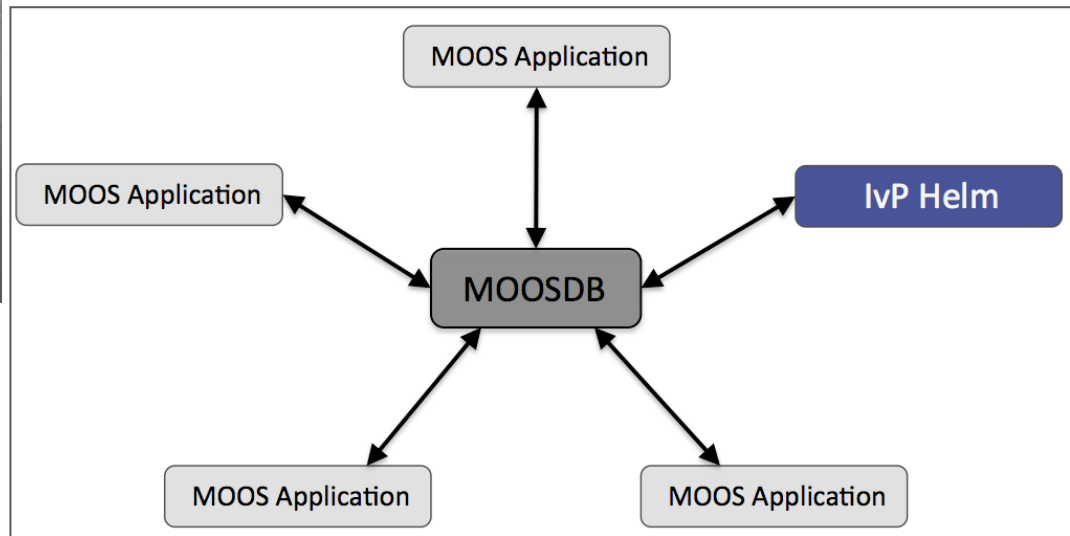


### Benefits:

- Leverage IvP Helm
- **Safety!!!!!!!**
- Mission-planning tools
- Mission execution tools
- Post-mission analysis/debugging



## On-water Safety/Interventions

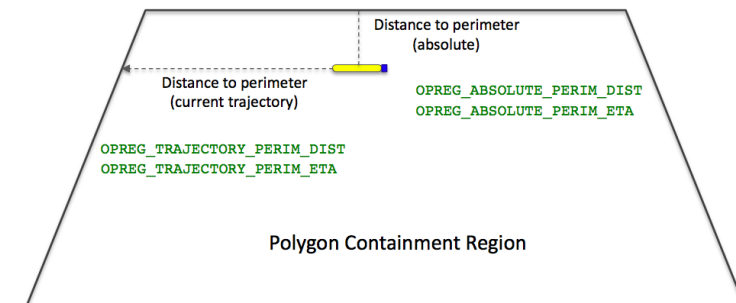


### Methods:

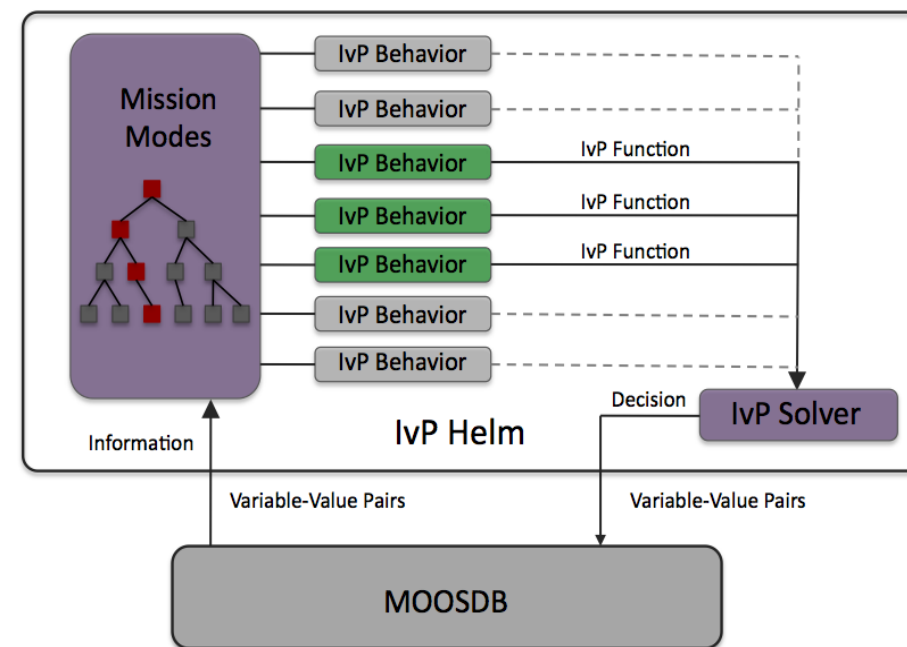
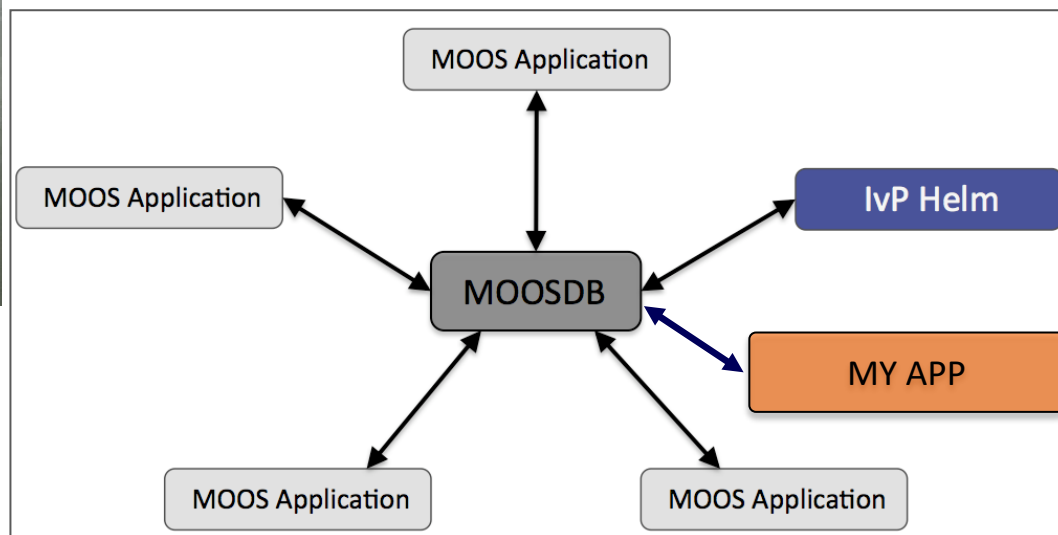
1. pHelm-IvP directly – using Modes and Behaviors

### Benefits:

- Leverage IvP Helm
- **Safety!!!!!!!**
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## On-water Safety/Interventions

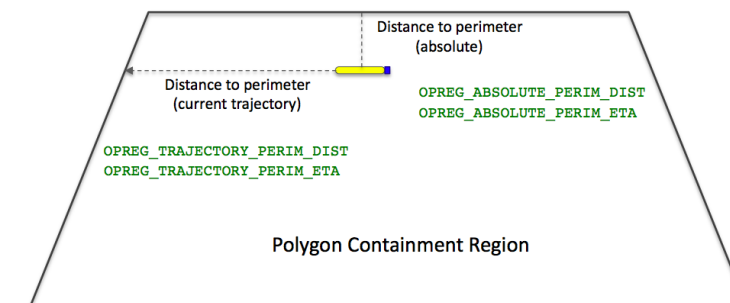


### Methods:

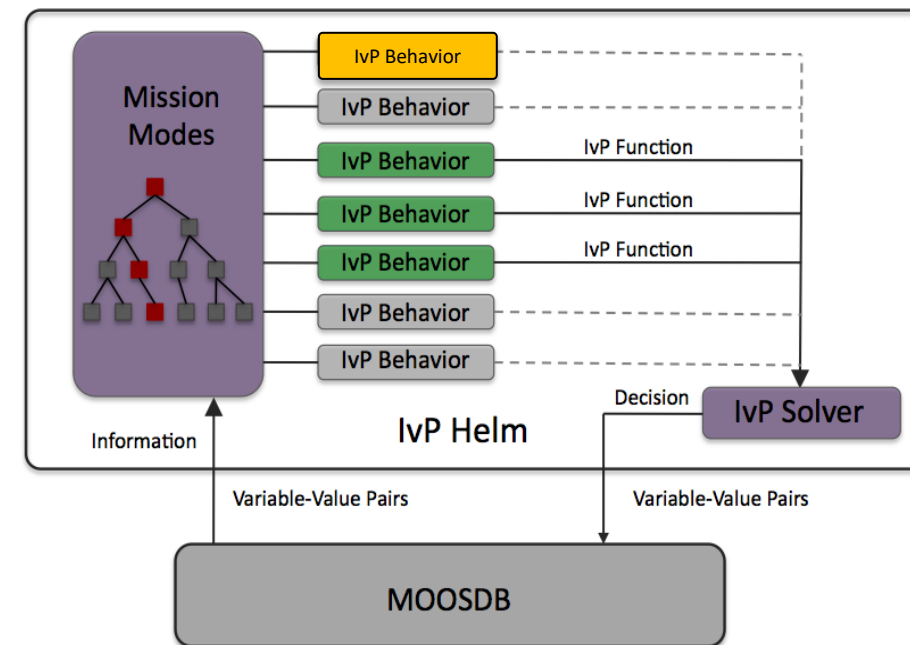
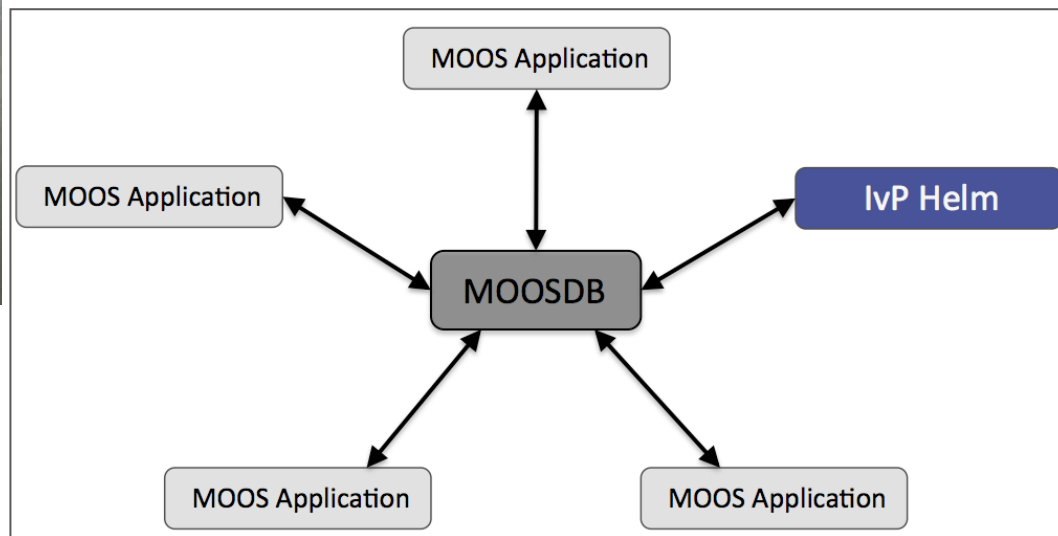
1. pHelm-IvP directly – using Modes and Behaviors
2. Create MOOS Applications – poke pHelm-IvP
  - a) Change modes
  - b) Change behavior parameters

### Benefits:

- Leverage IvP Helm
- **Safety!!!!!!!**
- Mission-planning tools
- Mission execution tools
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## On-water Safety/Interventions

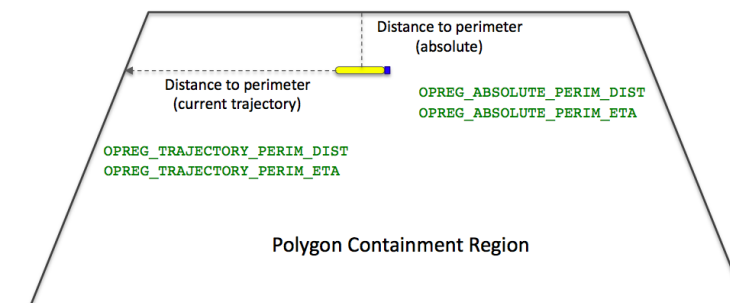


### Methods:

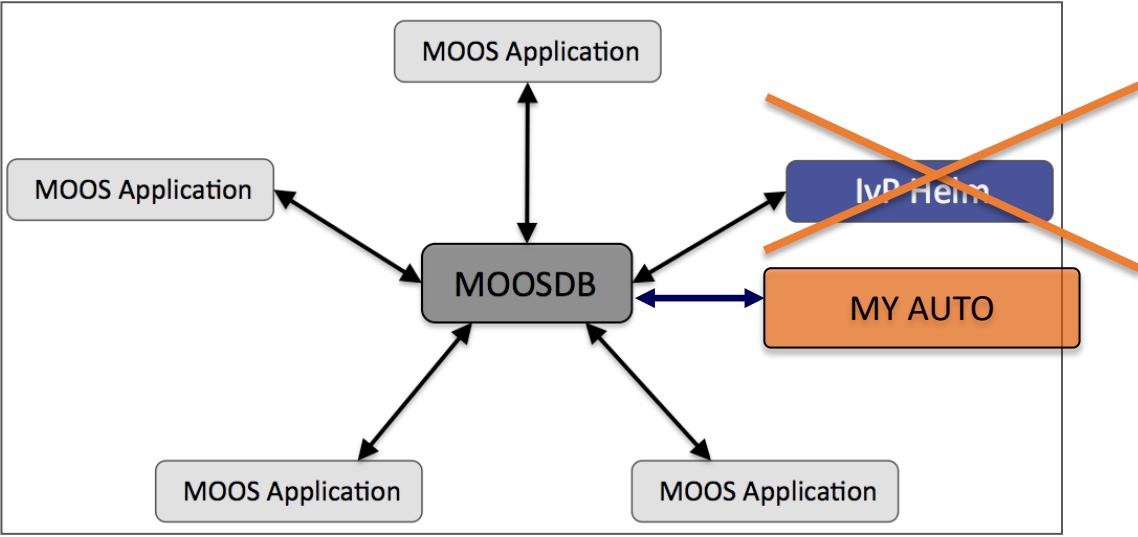
1. pHelm-IvP directly – using Modes and Behaviors
2. Create MOOS Applications – poke pHelm-IvP
  - a) Change modes
  - b) Change behavior parameters
3. Create Behaviors (c++)\*

### Benefits:

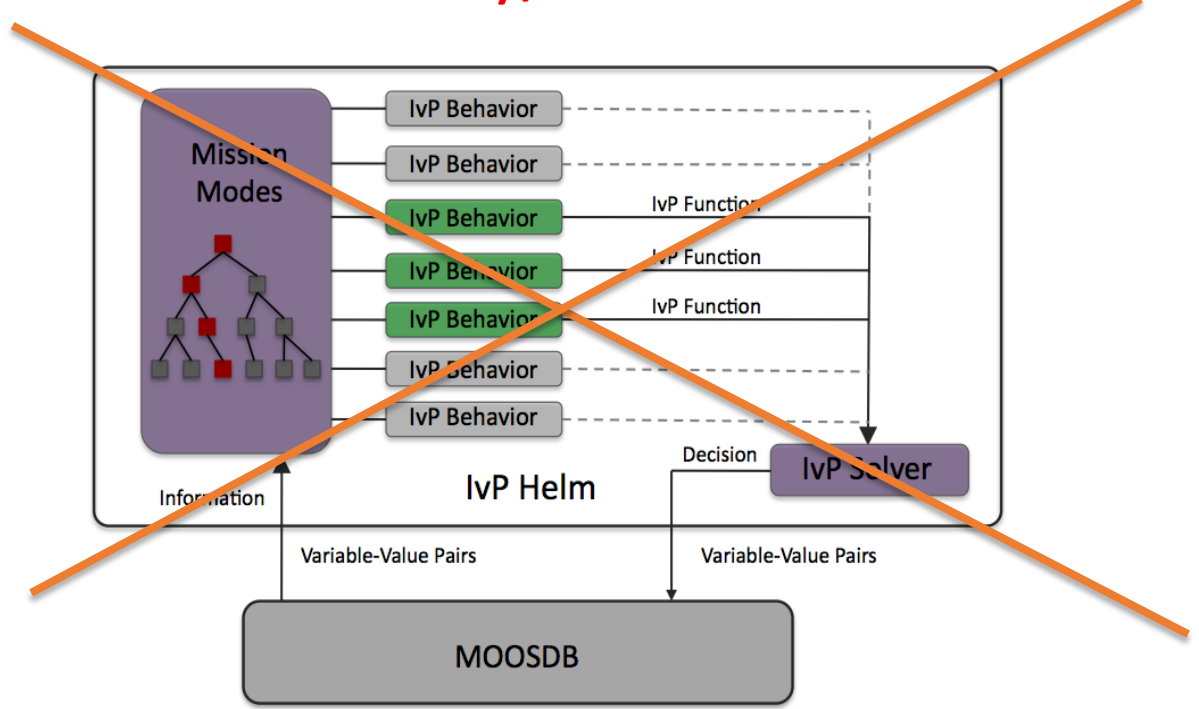
- Leverage IvP Helm
- **Safety!!!!!!!**
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\*example using python in pLearn



## On-water Safety/Interventions

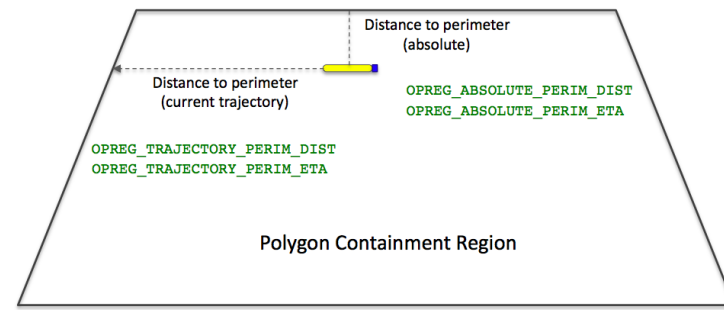


### Methods:

Bypass pHelm-IvP – directly publish to DESIRED\_HEADING and DESIRED\_SPEED

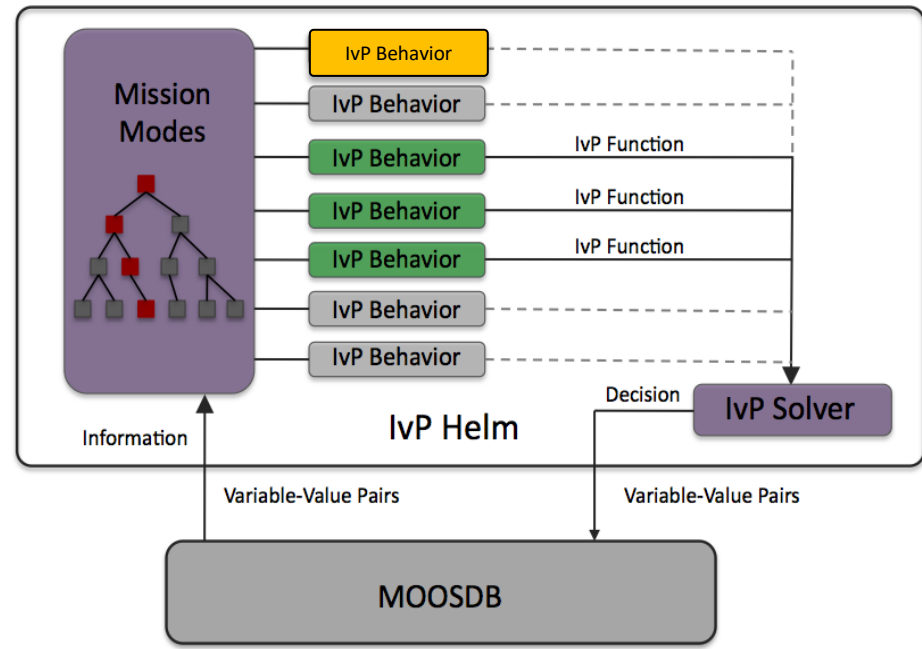
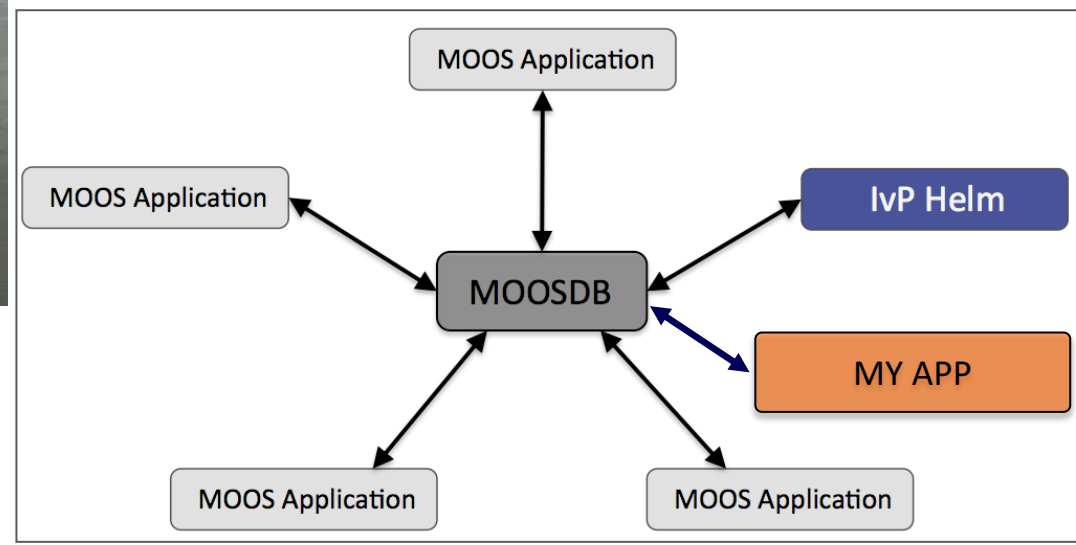
### Disadvantages:

- Leverage IvP Helm
- **Safety!!!!!!!**
- Mission-planning tools
- Mission execution tools
- Post-mission analysis/debugging



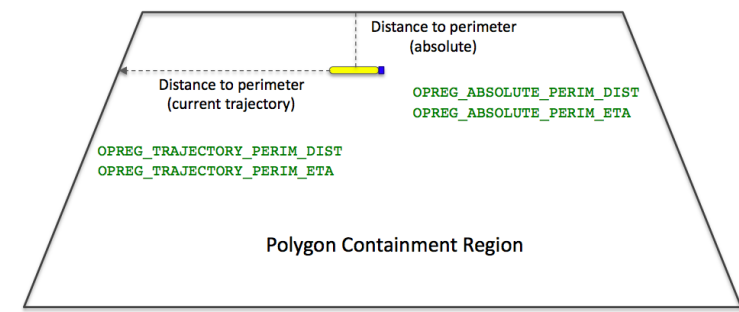


## On-water Safety/Interventions

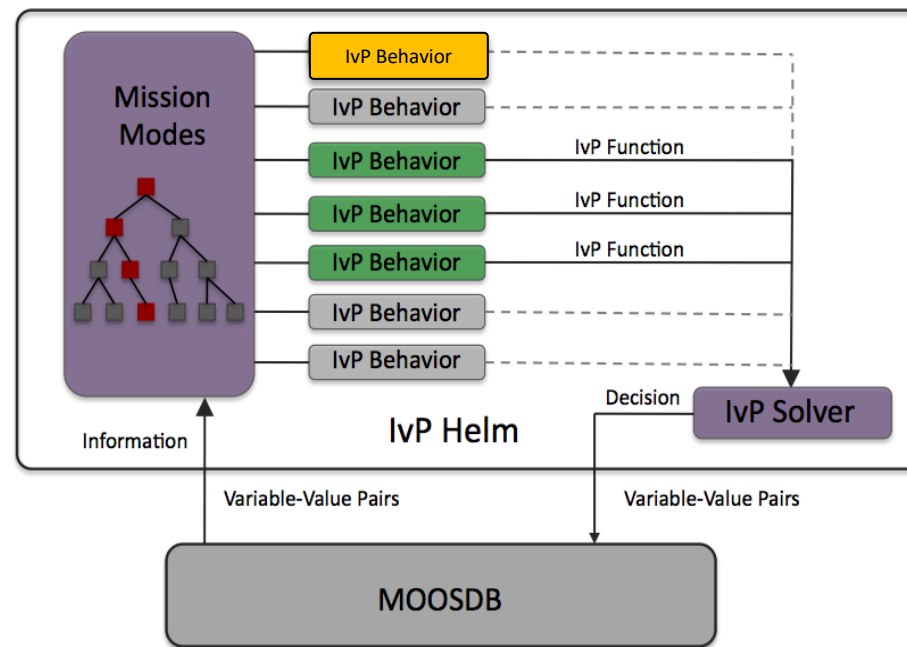
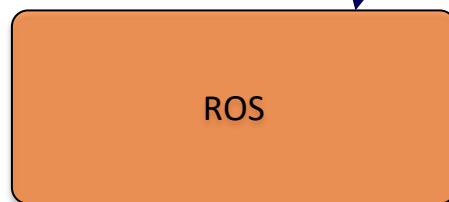
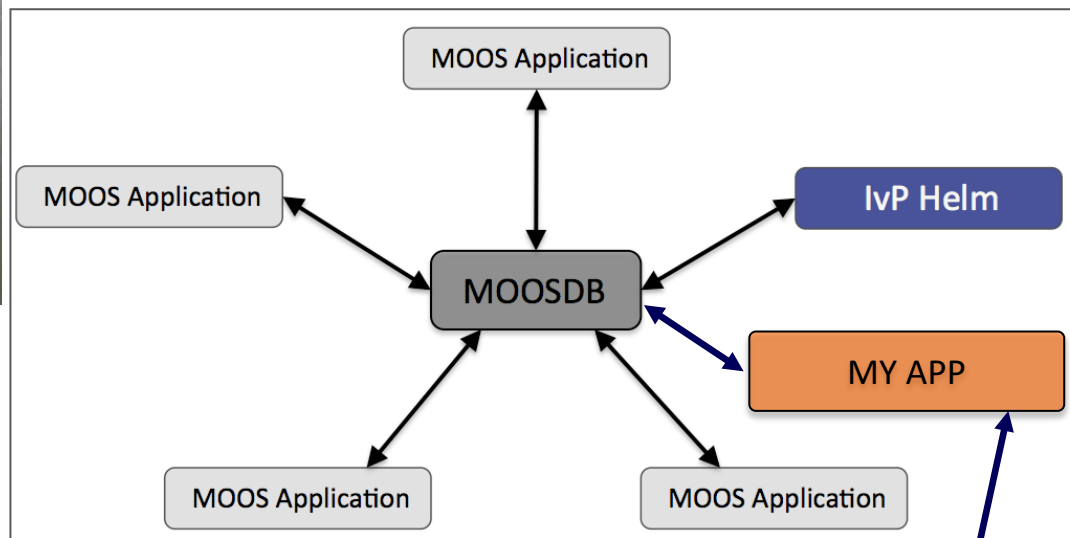


### Benefits:

- Leverage IvP Helm
- **Safety!!!!!!!**
- Mission-planning tools
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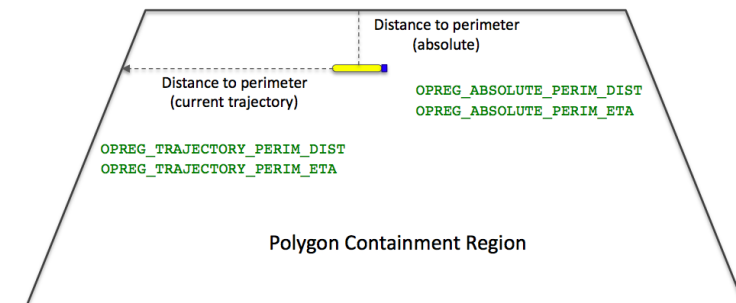


## On-water Safety/Interventions



### Benefits:

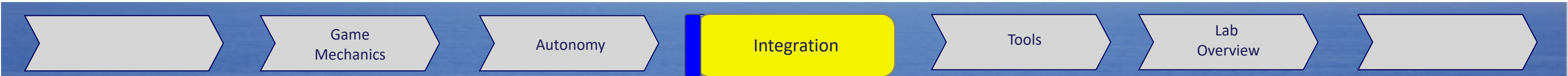
- Leverage IvP Helm
- **Safety!!!!!!!**
- Mission-planning tools
- Mission execution tools
- Post-mission analysis/debugging



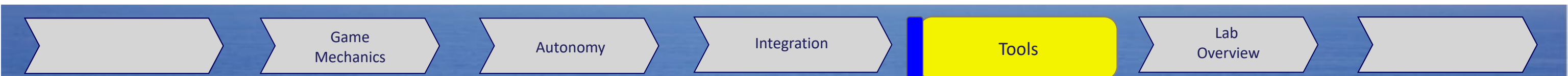
### Methods:

1. ROS/MOOS Bridge
2. LCM/MOOS Bridge
3. NMEA Strings through Sockets

\*example using python in pLearn



# MOOS-IvP & Aquaticus Analysis Tools

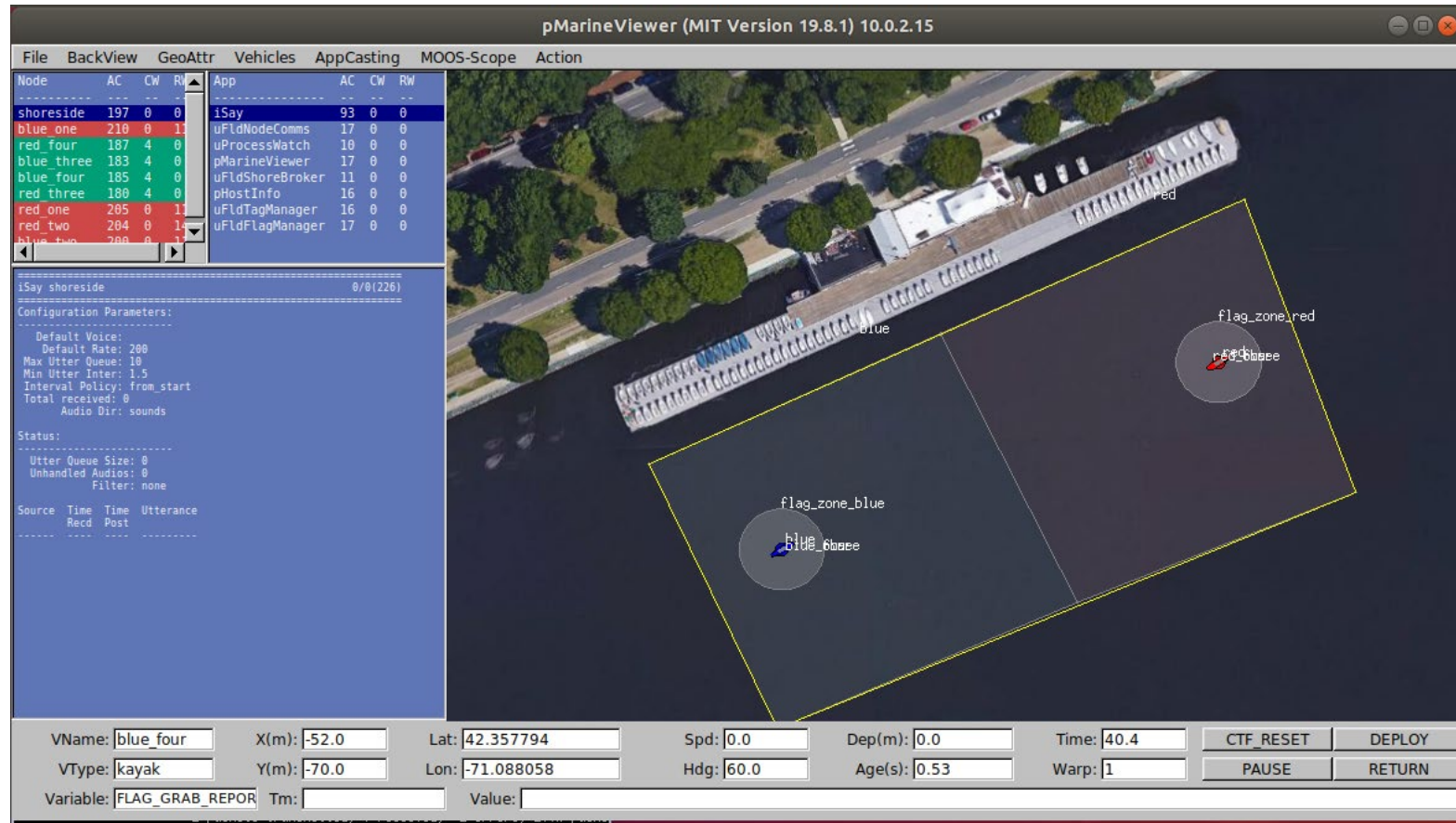


## pMarineViewer

- AppCasting
- 'SPACE' command window

## uHelmScope

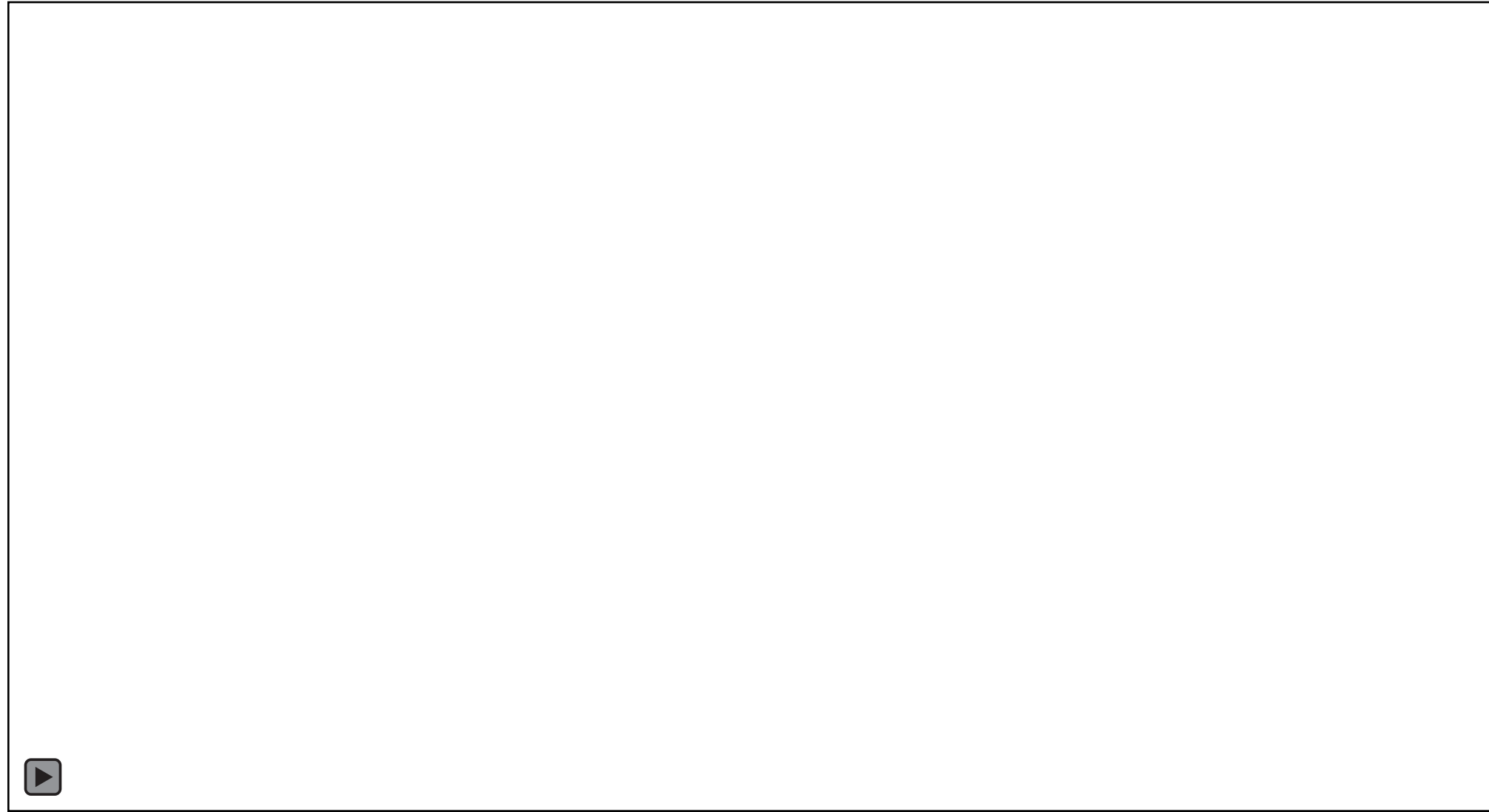
- 'h'



Mode-Variable=MODE  
 ACTIVE  
 RECOVERING  
 RETURNING  
 INGAME  
 SOLOPLAY  
 ATTACKING  
 TAGGED  
 UNTAGGED  
 AVOIDING  
 DEFENDING  
 PASSIVE  
 PROTECTING  
 TEAMPLAY  
 TRAILING  
 COVERING  
 SHIELDING  
 STATIONING  
 INACTIVE



- Alogview – all vehicles



## allogrep: command line tool

```
$ allogrep alpha.alog NAV_*  
$ allogrep alpha.alog NAV_* > nav.txt  
$ allogrep alpha.alog NAV_* > nav.txt
```

General message (local) vs sent to others

```
AQUATICUS_GAME  
AQUATICUS_GAME_ALL  
AQUATICUS_GAME_BLUE_TWO
```

<https://oceanai.mit.edu/ivpman/pmwiki/pmwiki.php?n=Tools.AlogIntro>

Game  
Mechanics

Autonomy

Integration

Tools

Lab  
Overview

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General message (local) vs sent to others

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AQUATICUS_GAME_BLUE_TWO
```

## Useful Aquaticus Variables

NAV_*	TAGGED_*
AQUATICUS_GAME	TAG_RELEASE_*
SAY_MOOS*	TAG_REQUEST
	TAG_RESULT_*
BLUE_SCORE	TAG_RESULT_VERBOSE
RED_SCORE	UNTAG_REQUEST
	ONFIELD_*
FLAG_GRAB_REPORT	
FLAG_GRAB_REQUEST	
FLAG_RESET	
FLAG_SUMMARY	
HAS_FLAG_*	
LED_HAVE_FLAG_SYSTEM	
LED_IN_FLAG_ZONE_*	
RED_FLAG_GRABBED	
BLUE_FLAG_GRABBED	

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# Lab 4.5: Preview

## Goals:

- Run Project Aquaticus all autonomy simulation
- Explore pMarineViewer
- Review post-mission analysis tools

